

HOW'S THIS FOR DRAMA?

Exciting Story Explains Name Confusion

From Richard C. Johnson, Parker, CO, we have a "whale of a tale" which he found in THE DONHAM FAMILY HISTORY, by Scott T. S. Trimble (1995), concerning Jonathan Dunham/Donham/Singletary. (We ran a previous article on this man back in Sept. 1991, built on records which were very unflattering to him.) (Because of the recent publication of Trimble's book, we'll rearrange & paraphrase the story.) Picture this: Between 1575 & 1600 there lived in England a prominent, titled family by the name of Dunham, sometimes written as Donham. The title was an old one, & over the years the family had split into 2 branches. A legal arrangement had been established that provided that, in the case of the death of the last male heir in the older branch, the title & estates would pass to the younger branch. This situation could obviously spell danger for such a "last male heir" in the senior Dunham family, particularly if the heir happened to be young & vulnerable. When these circumstances actually came about (date & place unrecorded), the little boy who was the last heir of the elder branch disappeared while in the care of his nurse. Though an extensive search was made -- even involving bloodhounds -- neither child nor nurse was ever found. The story doesn't include the information as to whether someone in the younger branch of the family then inherited, but that would seem a natural assumption. Skip ahead now X number of years, & we have the nurse, lying somewhere in England, on her deathbed, & with her conscience troubling her. She confessed that she had been hired to kill the child. (You'll have your own suspicions as to who might have been the instigator.) She found that her tender heart would not allow her to carry out these instructions, so instead she kidnapped him, spending the first 24 hours in a dense thicket, terrified when she heard the bloodhounds, but not discovered by them. Then she decided to take the child to America in order to escape, & this she managed to do. Evidently the ship's captain took a shine to the little Dunham/Donham boy, & when he agreed to look after him, the nurse (who really had no interest in him or in living in America) thankfully returned to England -- although she could hardly have gone back to her old life. One last gift she did give the little boy: a new name. She told the captain that the boy's name was Jonathan Singletary, a name she chose because the boy was alone in the world. Authorities believed the sworn deathbed confession that the woman made, & they sent detectives to investigate in the colonies. They found that the ship's captain was no longer living & thus could not verify the tale. However, they did locate a young man of the right age to have been the lost Dunham heir, a young man who went by the name of SINGLETARY & who had no knowledge of his forebears. The detectives believed they had found the right person, but evidence to prove it was lacking. Thus Jonathan Singletary could not take advantage of the his inheritance, but he did adopt his rightful name, DUNHAM, which he sometimes used in conjunction with the name SINGLETARY. As an adult, Jonathan moved to New Jersey ca. 1665, where he built a gristmill on Papiac Creek. At one point he was a representative to the NJ State Assembly. He died in Middlesex Co. In 1706. Aside from these last details, the specifics that could lend credence to this story are lacking. Did this really happen? Who knows for sure? But if it did, it deserves to be remembered.

NOTE: If there is to be a June issue, DD needs to have more materials. Please dig deep & see what you might send. Written materials are especially needed.

DUNHAM ENTRIES IN ILLINOIS CENSUS, 1850:

Given Name	County	Page	Township
Aaron	Chri	133	22nd District
Ablee J.	Adam	80	Ellington
Abel	Pike	61	4S3W
Abisha	Scot	45	NC Twp. L
Abraham	Clar	219	Darwin P.
Alfred	Winnebago	357	Butler
Amos	Jers	055	8th Twp.
Amy W.	Logan	210	NC Twp. L
Arthur E.	Livingston	163	N Side V.
Benjamin	Jers	55	8th Twp.
C.	Morgan	201	Jacksonville
Catherine	McDonough	257	NC Twp L
Celestia	Pike	230	6S5W
Charles L.	Adam	146	Lima
Daniel	DuPage	111	Wayne
Daton	Macomb	128	Macon DI
David	Kane	131	Geneva
Edwin	Mars	86	NC Twp. L
Eher	Lake	28	Newport
Elijah	McHenry	412	Coral
Elizabeth	Gree	123	N. Apple
George	Cook	377	Chicago
Harriet	Pike	62	4S3W
Harriett	Hancock	299	NC Twp. L
"	"	322	"
Henry	McDonough	257	"
Hugh	Adam	159	Melrose
Isabel	Pike	62	4S3W
J. P.	Logan	210	NC Twp. L
Jacob	Lee	98	China TW
James A.	Peoria	323	Peoria
John	Pike	30	5S3W
"	"	"	"
"	McLogan	47	Stouts G.
Jonathan	DeKalb	328	Saminack
"	Mars	128	NC Twp. L
Joseph	Sangamon	112	Sprongfield
"	Manc	280	NE Twp. L
Joshua	Pike	148	4S4W
Lavanch	Cook	303	Chicago

(TO BE CONTINUED)

AT RIGHT - Sue Stewart, Puryear, TN, sent in this obituary for her husband's half brother, Wendell Dunham (1920-1986)(7)(Joseph 1, Henry 2, Richard 3, John S. 4, James 5, John Franklin 6). It was evidently published in a Walla Walla, WA newspaper. We note among the survivors a Dawson Peterson, who is not a Dunham, since he is the son of John Franklin's Dunham's 2nd wife, Katie McCary Patterson.

KNOX COUNTY, OHIO "NEWS"

3 generations of one particular Dunham family seem to be indicated in these newspaper clippings which come to DD, thanks to Jacqueline Gerth, Glenview, IL. The clippings first appeared in a Knox Co. Ohio newspaper, & the oldest of them dates from the year 1879. Unfortunately we can't identify the Hiram Dunham whose life it chronicles -- this despite a quite thorough search of the Dunham Index. Data on all listed Hiram's showed them to be either way too young or from an area other than New Jersey. The 2nd clipping advises citizens of the area of the opening of a store owned by Hiram's son, William E. Dunham. Next, a "social note" concerning Jeff Dunham, most likely a grandson of Hiram. It is interesting because of its illustration of the changes 100-plus years can bring about in the connotations of language. Then, in 1885, we find records of the marriage of Jeff Dunham to Ida M. Spearman. Does anyone know where these Dunhams "belong"?

Death of Hiram Dunham

Another of Knox county's old pioneers has gone to his long home. Hiram Dunham died at his residence in Wayne township, seven miles north-west of Mt. Vernon, on Monday last, aged 87 years and 20 days, and was buried on Wednesday. The deceased was a native of Middlesex county, New Jersey, where he was born on the 3d of March, 1792. He came with other members of the family, to Knox county, about sixty years ago, first settling in Morris township, and from there remov-

ing to his late home in Wayne, where he resided for 47 years—purchasing the land when it was an unbroken wilderness, and by his industry and good management leaving it one of the best cultivated and most beautiful farms in Knox county. The deceased leaves a brother and two sisters living—one of the sisters being his senior. He raised a family of nine children, seven of whom, (five sons and two daughters) are still living—all respected and honored by the entire community where they reside. His eldest son (William E.) was twice chosen Treasurer of Knox county,

and discharged the duties of the office faithfully and honestly. He also leaves five grand-children. His wife still survives, now in the 78th year of her age, although greatly afflicted and distressed on account of the death of her beloved companion.

Hiram Dunham was a man among men. He made no profession of religion; but, nevertheless, he was a truly good man, who, by his kindness of heart, his works of charity, his devotion to his family, his

Wendall Dunham

Wendall Dunham, 68, of 722 S. Wilbur Ave. died Sunday at St. Mary Medical Center.

The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Groseclose Garden Chapel. The Rev. Bill Buford of the Pioneer United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will be in the Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens. BPOE 287 will be in charge of ritualistic services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Fund, the Shirley Dunham and Paula Gaye

In Memory of



Wendall Dunham

Zerba Honorary Memorial Cancer Fund through the funeral home.

Dunham was born March 6, 1920, in Matthews, Mo., to Frank and Kathryn McCary Dunham. He graduated from Matthews High School in 1937 and attended Linfield College. He began working when he was 12 while still attending school. He moved to Tieton, Wash., in 1937, later moving to Walla Walla where he played semi-pro baseball and worked for Safeway. He then worked for Standard Oil Co. for several years. He later worked in the shipyards in Seattle.

He married Shirley Mays in Walla Walla on July 21, 1939.

Dunham served in the U.S. Navy for three years. He was "Honor Man" in boot camp. While in the service he was an athletic director. Following his discharge, he played baseball with the Oakland Acorns, a farm team for the New York Yankees. He then played for the Spokane Indians for a short time prior to returning to Walla Walla where he played for the Walla Walla Bears. He was a second baseman. Af-

ter moving to Walla Walla he went into the plumbing business with a brother-in-law. He later opened the Cottage Bakery. In 1963 he became associated with the Paxton-Kent Insurance Agency. Several years later the J.F. McDonald Agency and Paxton-Kent Agency merged and he became an officer and stockholder. He recently sold his interest, but remained active in the company until the time of his death.

He was a member of the Pioneer United Methodist Church, BPOE 287 and the Walla Walla Country Club. An avid sportsman, he especially enjoyed baseball and golf.

Dunham is survived by a daughter, Sandra Daniels of Walla Walla; a son, Michael Dunham of Bellevue; two sisters, Marietta "Sis" Cunningham of Walla Walla, Ruth "Tots" Copple of Santa Maria, Calif.; three brothers, Bill "Mac" Dunham of Tacoma, Dawson Patterson of Tieton, Wash.; and Millard Dunham of Prudenville, Mich.; and five grandchildren. His wife died in June 1983.

(Cont'd page 4)

KNOX COUNTY (from p. 3)

assistance in all benevolent and useful enterprises, made himself a model that others might follow with advantage. The funeral, notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather, was very large—many friends from Mt. Vernon being in attendance. The Rev. J. H. Johnston, of the Green Valley M. E. Church, and the Rev. Bryant Ransom, of the Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon, officiated on the occasion, each paying a high tribute to the noble qualities of the deceased. The remains were deposited in the family burying place in the Green Valley Cemetery.

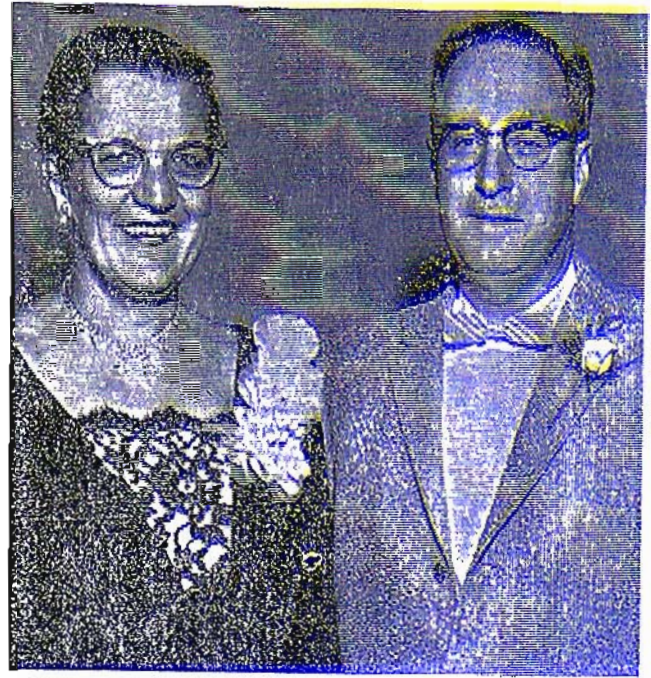
—Mr. Wm. E. Dunham has opened a merchant tailoring store in the Kremlin building, in this room formerly occupied by Kelly's hardware store. He has employed that popular cutter Mr. Richard West, and will be glad to have the citizens of Knox county call at his place of business.

—Six gay couples from near Mt. Vernon took tea at the Globe Saturday evening, after a visit to the Henlock Falls. They were Jeff Dunham, M. R. Jenkins, A. G. Cuyon, J. P. Clark, H. Jenkins, E. Clark and ladies.

—Married—On May 14th, 1885, at Mt. Vernon, by Rev. J. B. McCormick, Mr. Jefferson Demhan and Miss Ida M. Spearman, both of this County.

tral line: Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Gershom 3, Mary Dunham Covell 4, James Covell 5, George Covell 6, Jane Covell Cook 7, Lucille Cook Hoskins 8 -- but whether this line is for Fred Secor or for Lucinda Kyser, we don't know. Ann, could you carry this line forward another generation or so? She mentions that the Secors' daughter, Beverly, is now Mrs. Warren Noble, of Verona. Beverly has 5 children (all Kinnes): Fred, Jennie, Jeff, Wendy & Bonnie.

NOTE: We are STILL getting requests for information with no S.A.S.E. enclosed. Please advise your contacts that DD cannot respond to these letters.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred O. Secor

From Ann Eldred, Verona, NY, comes this 1959 account of the 25th wedding anniversary of Fred O. Secor & Lucinda Kyser, of Verona. Ann provides this ancestor-

Secors Mark Anniversary Of Marriage

VERONA — Mr. and Mrs. Fred O. Secor were feted at a dinner dance Sunday at the American Legion Home, Sherrill in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. They were presented a silver tea service by friends and relatives.

Mrs. Secor, the former Lucinda Kyser, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kyser, South Bay, and Mr. Secor, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Secor, formerly of Stittville, were married Oct. 11, 1934 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Holland Patent, by the Rev. Robert Moore. They were attended by Mrs. Secor's sister, the late Mrs. Stuart Germond, and her brother-in-law, Stuart Germond.

The Secors have two children, Mrs. James Kinne, Verona, and Edward Secor, at home. They have three grandchildren. Mr. Secor is management foreman in the tube mill at Revere Copper & Brass, Rome, where he has been employed the past 30 years.

BEAUTY & THE KIWANIAN

The June 24, 1970 issue of the DAILY NORTH-WESTERN (Oshkosh, WI) published this picture of Julie Heberlein, Miss Portage in that year's beauty contest. With her is Al Dunham (10)(Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Micaiah 3, Micaiah 4, Joseph 5, Benjamin 6, Robert F. 7, Ephraim 8, James W. 9). The pageant winners were enjoying a lunch with the Kiwanis club before getting down to the serious business of competing for the state crown. We don't know how Julie fared in that competition, but it is clear that she had one vote securely nailed down. Photo, thanks to Bob W. Dunham, Madison, Wisconsin.

NOTICE: DD has mentioned before that everyone would be getting a special letter, from Virginia, pertaining to the formation of an official **DUNHAM FAMILY ORGANIZATION**. It will be coming soon now. Watch for it.

**Present for Luncheon**

Oshkosh Kiwanis Club did a little entertaining Tuesday, inviting the local level pageant winners, in town for the Miss Wisconsin finals, to a luncheon at The Picasso Plaza. Miss Portage, Julie Heberlein—sporting a rich coat of tan—visits with Al Dunham.

—All Northwestern photos